TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 1, 2003 LB 500

will be no fiscal impact as far as the state is concerned. And I'll totally agree with you there. But there will be a fiscal impact as far as counties are concerned. And would you agree with that?

SENATOR SMITH: I guess I wouldn't. This is a voluntary process.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, it is a voluntary process. But it seems to me like once something like this is enacted and, you know, when you create another level of schooling and another level of compensation for these, I am sure that the majority of the possible recipients of this will try to receive the maximum amount that they've got coming to them. Is this correct?

SENATOR SMITH: I can see that happening. But it is not a mandate. In fact, the amendment and all of the process to date has been supported by the Nebraska Association of County Officials.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, it possibly is. But you know, I was...I think I was the only one that voted against this out of committee, and I still don't agree with it. We do allow these people to go and get a better education, and we're giving them, you know, the opportunity to get another classification now. And in my situation in my county, it would involve, if they go along with the compensation that is allowed to them, it could be another cost of \$6,000. And I am very much concerned with that. So those are my comments. And I'll return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Any further discussion on the motion to return for specific amendment? Seeing none, Senator Smith, did you wish to close?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, very briefly. I would just point out that on page 11 of the bill, that the incentive payments go to the county. The county does not pay that. I mean, there are some licensing fees. But the incentive payments, for example, of \$6,000, that's an incentive. So I just wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. President.